

To the Editor of the Standard :

The life and strongly marked character of Enoch Hazeltine, who at the venerable age of 85 died, at the residence of his son in this city, deserves a fitting tribute. Having the deepest interest in religious and moral subjects, he was led to embrace whatever looked towards reform. Joining the anti-slavery movement at its inception, he next identified himself with the total abstinence cause, and was its ardent and consistent supporter for forty years. That brave non-resistance movement excited his sympathy as pure Christianity, yet he could never reconcile its absolute unworldliness with human nature. But it was as an abolitionist that our subject did his country heroic service, becoming a Garrisonian in 1838. Having high sense of justice, immense moral courage, ardent temperament, and impetuous temper, he denounced slavery and its apologists with scathing words in "bary indignation." "Instant in season and out of season," pleading for the slave, and denouncing personal oppressors, to him was more than the moral odium attached to abolitionists. Besides the slung epithets, he was called an agitator; yet agitation was no part of his nature. With the purist spirit disregarding personal considerations, through the long, gloomy, disgraceful years, while leaders and politicians were saying "Peace, peace," this humble man "cried aloud and spared not," proclaiming "There is no peace for the wicked." Among early impressions, the writer vividly remembers the solemn, gloomy tone of Mr. Hazeltine's prediction, reiterated until its terrible fulfillment, that "this crime of slavery must go down in rivers of blood." Its final downfall gave him satisfaction unspeakable.

Mr. Hazeltine's inquiring mind was ever inclined to break from the shackles of superstition early inculcated, and he moved step by step, until he had great joy in believing what seemed parent and host in the spiritualistic philosophy; yet he was in accord sympathy with the most advanced thought of the age. With profound conscientiousness, gravely approaching sternness, and firmness that permeated his whole nature, giving it at times a somewhat aspect, Mr. Hazeltine has been aptly likened to David Evans in *The Heart of Midlothian*. The singularity of such a nature, in Mr. Hazeltine's case, was softened in declining years; and still retaining his mental vigor, he grew patient and gentle, thus rounding into a symmetrical and beautiful old age. Nor did he outlive his usefulness, at times almost constantly laboring shiftily at the bench in his son's store. Last October, although in good health, to him he said, "The time of my passing away cannot be distant; I now renew the proposal made years ago to build my own coffin." Being answered that if such was his desire, and he could cheerfully do it, there could be no objection, he replied, "Such is my desire, and I can as cheerfully do it as I ever did anything in my life." So he selected and paid for his boards at the mill, took them to the bench, and cheerfully made a plain coffin to his use. Overgoing his 83rd birthday during his four weeks' sickness, his spirit was beautifully translated, firm in the belief that for all exists a progressive and blessed immortality. O. H.

Chas. Hazeltine.

To the Editor of the Standard :

In view of the approaching dissolution of the late Enoch Hazeltine, Mr. Garrison was invited to conduct the funeral services of his life-time collaborer. Prevented by precarious health, he offered to send a letter containing the substance of what he would say if present. The letter was unavoidably delayed too late for the special purpose, and the following tribute was sent.

Boston, Feb. 3, 1871.

DEAR MR. HAZELTINE,—I see that your venerable father has at last succumbed to that law of mortality which, sooner or later, reduces the whole human race to dust, so far as these "fleshy tabernacles" are concerned; for over the spirit it has no power, except to change its sphere of activity, and remove what would otherwise prove an insurmountable obstacle to development and progress. The tribulation must have been to him a joyous one, not only in the deliverance thereby secured from all bodily suffering, but in the advantage derived from being "clothed upon" for a higher state of existence. His was no untimely exit. The term of his earthly sojourn extended to that of two generations, and his birth was coeval with the constitutional organization of our republic. There has been no President of the United States, from Washington to Grant, no change of administration, no rise and fall of parties, outside of his personal knowledge. Through at no time companion to the public eye, he was no ordinary man, seeing well his part in all the relations of life. Instantly disposed to "prove all things," and equally resolved to "hold fast that which is good," he kept step with the foremost in the march of reform, eschewing all attachments of worldly expediency in a tactless adherence to unimpeachable principle, feeling no obliquity or persecution, and ever seeking to leave the world better than he found it. Hence his prompt and zealous exposure of all the marked reformatory movements of the present century—not at the eleventh hour, but among the earliest in the field; never waiting for reinforcements, or for that partial success which seems to be prophetic of ultimate triumph, but standing alone if need be, never doubting how the conflict would end. Such qualities of mind and heart are too rarely found; for there are few independent thinkers after truth and duty, the great mass of society being controlled by tradition and custom, ever raising the old inquiry, "Have any of the rulers believed on him?"

To the present generation,—especially the younger portion—it may now seem a small matter, requiring no moral courage or self-denial, to have signed the total abstinence pledge and given an uncompromising support to the temperance cause more than forty years ago; for that cause has attained the highest respectability, and gathered to itself the strongest moral forces in the land, exacting laws and shaping legislation for the furtherance of its beneficent object. So far as relates to this part of the country, the "offense of the cross" has long since ceased in regard to the temperance question. But in its early stage, and for a considerable period, it had to encounter popular ridicule, censure, opprobrium, hostility, to an extreme degree. It was, therefore, a time that demanded exceptional conscientiousness, firmness, persistence, courage, and fidelity.

"Precarious wealth, and opinions change,  
And passions hold a fluctuating seat;  
But, by the storms of circumstance shaken,  
And subject neither to eclipse nor wane,  
Duty exists—immortally survives!"

So reasoned and acted your stalwart sire. Hence, no sooner was the anti-slavery flag unfurled than he enlisted for the war, and never laid down his weapons until victory was achieved, and every headman set free.

An octogenarian, he was wholly exempt from the conservatism of old age. With deep conviction he uttered a watchword spirit, conforming his views to the light vouchsafed to him, and ever ready to be right. Blessed be his memory!

Very truly yours,

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

Charles Hazeltine.

Mr. Phillips's letter explains itself.

9th Feb., 1871.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter I opened on my return from a lecture tour—too late to be of any service in the respects you were to pay to your father's memory. I regret this, for my heart warms at every recollection of the hardly few who have the trust and toil of that day of trial. I remember your father's name as often on the lips of those early laborers, though I seldom, if ever, enjoyed his society more than a few minutes at a convention. These are precious memories. He has left you the best of legacies,—such a name, and such an example. I am with you in warmest sympathy.

Cordially, WENDELL PHILLIPS.

Mr. Hazeltine.

